

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: EAM'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

1. CELEBRATION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATIONFRONT (EAM), AN ANTI-NAZI RESISTANCE MOVEMENT PUT TOGETHER UNDER COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP DURING THE OCCUPATION OF GREECE IN WORLD WAR II, ILLUMINATED THE POLITICAL PRESENT RATHER MORE FULLY THAN THE HEROIC PAST. THE EVENT PASSED QUIETLY, PEACEFULLY AND WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. THE GREEK COMMUNISTS AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE DEPTHS OF THEIR DIFFERENCES. THE TWO OPPOSING GREEK COMMUNIST FACTIONS WERE UNABLE TO PUT ASIDE THEIR MUTUAL ANIMOSITIES AND JOIN IN HONORING A PAST OF WHICH BOTH ARE PROUD. THUS, THE INDEPENDENT FACTION (THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR) HELD ITS OWN RALLY ON SEPTEMBER 26 AND THE MOSCOW-CONNECTED COMMUNIST PART OF THE EXTERIOR FACTION ON SEPTEMBER 27. BOTH GROUPS CLAIM TO HAVE FILLED TO CAPACITY (ABOUT 20,000) THE TWO STADIUMS THEY RESPECTIVELY HELD THEIR CELEBRATIONS IN. THE COMMUNIST FRONT UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA) REFRAINED FROM JOINING EITHER CELEBRATION. (OF INTEREST WAS THE REPORTED PARTICIPATION BY ANDREAS

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PAPANDREOU'S PASOK PARTY IN AN EARLIER MEETING OF THE

TWO COMMUNIST PARTIES AND EDA AT WHICH AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO ORGANIZE ONLY ONE CELEBRATION RALLY.)

3. THE REACTION OF THE GREEK CONSERVATIVES SHOWED AGAIN THAT MEMORIES OF EAM RESISTANCE AND IMMEDIATE POST-WORLD WAR II ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN. IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS WAS EAM'S THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY - BUT ITS FIRST PUBLIC CELEBRATION, SINCE THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE REMAINED OUTLAWED UNTIL LAST YEAR. ITS PRESENT LEGAL STATUS FOR THE FIRST TIME MADE POSSIBLE FAVORABLE PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF EAM AND OF ITS PAST ROLE.

4. TWO CONSERVATIVE PAPERS, WHICH USUALLY SPEAK FOR MUCH OF THE GREEK RIGHT (ESTIA AND ELEFTHEROS COSMOS) RECALLED JUST WHAT EAM WAS AND JUST WHAT WERE SOME OF THE BARBARIC THINGS IT DID TO ITS NON-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-COMMUNIST OPPONENTS. PRIVATELY, SOME GREEK CONSERVATIVES POINT TO THE EAM CELEBRATION TO DOCUMENT A CASE THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE FOR NEARLY A YEAR - THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CODDLING THE COMMUNISTS.  
KUBISCH

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